

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2452

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3014

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, RH

SUBJ: SMITH-VORSTER TALKS ON RHODESIA SETTLEMENT

1. SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS "IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE" PROVIDED US, BRITISH, FRENCH, AND GERMAN EMBASSIES WITH TWO CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING DOCUMENTS ABOUT RESULTS OF THIS PAST WEEKEND'S CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN SA PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND RHODESIAN LEADER IAN SMITH. TEXT OF FIRST DOCUMENT FOLLOWS (LETTERING OF PARAGRAPHS ADDED):

A. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN PRETORIA ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 8TH AND 9TH AUGUST, 1975, BETWEEN MR. SMITH ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTERS DE KOCK, COWPER AND CRONJE, AND MR. VORSTER ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTERS P.W. BOTHA, H. MULLER AND J. KRUGER, IT WAS DECIDED TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA, AND THROUGH HIM TO HIS COLLEAGUES, FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION:

B. THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, THROUGH ITS MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE A.N.C. THROUGH THEIR APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES, CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL MEET, NOT LATER THAN THE 25TH OF AUGUST, 1975, ON THE VICTORIA

FALLS BRIDGE, IN RAILWAY COACHES TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, FOR A FORMAL CONFERENCE, WITHOUT ANY PRE-CONDITIONS.

C. THE OBJECT OF THE FORMAL MEETING IS TO GIVE THE PARTIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS PUBLICLY THEIR GENUINE DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE AN ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT.

D. AFTER THIS THE MEETING WILL ADJOURN IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE PARTIES TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN A COMMITTEE OR COMMITTEES IN RHODESIA.

E. THE PARTIES WILL THEREFORE MEET AGAIN IN FORMAL CONFERENCE, ANYWHERE DECIDED UPON, TO RATIFY THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSALS.

F. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, BOTSWANA AND MOZAMBIQUE, RESPECTIVELY, EXPRESS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENSURE THAT THIS AGREEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED BY THE PARTIES.

2. TEXT OF SECOND DOCUMENT (LETTERING OF PARAS ADDED):

A. THE MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENTS WAS DISCUSSED WITH MR. MARK CHONA OF ZAMBIA, AT THE CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN MINISTERS.

B. MR. CHONA UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENTS AND TO INFORM MR. VORSTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THEIR REACTION. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE HE WILL TRY TO GET A REPLY BEFORE WEDNESDAY, 13TH AUGUST. (EMBASSY NOTE: 13TH IS DATE VORSTER DEPARTS FOR SOUTH AMERICAN TRIP.)

C. MR. SMITH AGREED THAT NO NEW DETENTIONS WOULD BE MADE WHILE NEGOTIATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE.

D. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT NO OFFICIAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ATMOSPHERE, SUCH AS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, RADION BROADCASTS AND INFILTRATION OF TERRORISTS.

E. THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED TO THE PRESS: "THE
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MINISTERS HELD FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS IN DEPTH OF THE WHOLE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION, AND REACHED AGREEMENTS WHICH IF IMPLEMENTED BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, CAN LEAD TO A SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS WOULD BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

3. ASKED WHAT WAS TO HAPPEN DURING ADJOURNMENT MENTIONED IN PARA 1D ABOVE, DFA DEPUTY SECRETARY VAN DALSEN SAID BOTH SIDES

(SMITH AND ANC) WOULD SIMPLY WITHDRAW TO DISCUSS THEIR SEPARATE POSITIONS, THIS DOES NOT ADEQUATELY EXPLAIN REFERENCE IN THAT PARA TO "A COMMITTEE OR COMMITTEES IN RHODESIA", WHICH IMPLIES INFORMAL WORKING TALKS MIGHT CONTINUE INSIDE RHODESIA.

4. ASKED WHETHER SMITH SEEMED TAKE REALISTIC VIEW OF NEED FOR SETTLEMENT, VAN DALSEN SAW HIS AGREEMENT TO PARA C AND D OF SECOND DOCUMENT AS INDICATION SMITH DOES INDEED APPRECIATE NEED FOR AGREEMENT AND IS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH.

5. VAN DALSEN SAID ZAMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE MARK CHONA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN TALKS BETWEEN SMITH AND VORSTER BUT WAS PRESENT FOR DISCUSSION WITH THEM OF MESSAGE REFERRED TO IN PARAS 1A AND 2A. REFERENCE TO KAUNDA'S "COLLEAGUES" IN PARA 1A AND "PRESIDENTS" IN 2A IS TO PRESIDENTS OF BOTSWANA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND TANZANIA (AS IN PARA 1F). VAN CALSEN SAID PRESIDENT KAUNDA WAS OF COURSE ALREADY AWARE OF LETTER AND ITS PROPOSAL.

6. COMMENT: INFORMATION ABOUT SMITH-VORSTER MEETING HAS BEEN HELD UNUSUALLY TIGHTLY AND PRESS HAS LITTLE BEYOND FACT OF TALKS AND COMMUNIQUE. THEY APPARENTLY HAVE NO HINT OF CHONA'S VISIT OR ANY INKLING OF PROPOSAL FOR TALKS ON WHEELS. IF PURPOSE OF VICOTRIA FALLS CONFERENCE IS LIMITED TO THAT STATED IN PARA 1C, THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF ROOM FOR SMITH TO ENGAGE IN HIS USUAL WAFFLING TACTICS. IT ALSI OBVIOUS THAT HARDEST PART OF GETTING PARTIES TOGETHER ON REAL SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUES REST ON FAR HORIZON. NEITHER SOUTH AFRICA NOR ZAMBIA CAN BE FAULTED FOR LACK OF CONTINUING EFFORT TO MOVE PROBLEM TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER.
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